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Division Director

State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

355 West North Temple

3 Triad Center, Suite 350

Salt Lake City, Utah 84180-1203

801-538-5340

December 9, 1988

Mr. Scott N. Hartman
Unit Manager
Hecla Mining Company
Escalante Unit
P.O. Box 310
Enterprise, Utah 84725

Dear Mr. Hartman:

Re: Approval of Reclamation Plan, Escalante Silver Mine, M/021/004,
Iron County, Utah

Thank you for your December 1, 1988 letter provided in response to our discussions and onsite inspection conducted November 30, 1988. The proposed mine abandonment and reclamation plan submitted by Hecla Mining Company is adequate provided the following minor changes are incorporated during field implementation:

- Item 1: Use a 3 foot concrete plug.
- Item 2: Use a 3 foot concrete plug.
- Item 3: Use a 2 foot concrete plug.
- Item 4: Use a 3 foot concrete plug.

Prior to final topsoiling and reseeding activities, the operator should regrade the surface to prohibit surface drainage from entering the backfilled/plugged inclined shaft, old manway, north and south raises.

- Item 5: The bulkhead should be anchored on 3 foot centers by resin rock bolts on all four sides (top, ribs, and floor). The locked mandoor should overlap the bulkhead frame and should open out. The size of this mandoor should not exceed 12 square feet, and should be constructed of the same 1/2 inch steel plate that is used in the bulkhead construction. Suitable warning signs should be placed on the door and outby at the portal until final reclamation of this decline is completed.

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Mr. Scott Hartman
M/021/004
December 9, 1988

Item 6: There are apparently several pre-law shafts and/or pits on the property. In the interest of public safety, we urge Hecla to backfill these shafts and pits with available material. The shafts and pits should also be fenced, if there is insufficient waste to completely backfill to the surface. Complete reclamation (i.e. concrete plugging, final grading and revegetation) of these areas will not be required.

Item 7: Acceptable as proposed.

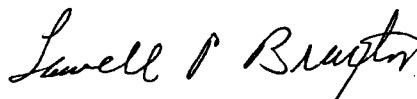
The reclamation plans indicate that topsoiling and reseeding will be performed on the areas to be immediately reclaimed. However, the plans do not address reseeding and topsoiling specifics.

We have attached copies of an October 22, 1980 letter to Ranchers, from the Division, specifying the reseeding requirements. An October 27, 1980 letter is also attached where Ranchers commit to the Division specifications.

Topsoiling should be performed to a minimum of 3 inches, 6 inches is preferred. The 1980, 3 volume Mining and Reclamation Plan does not address topsoiling specifications either. These specifications will have to be addressed before the operator performs further reclamation at the site, beyond that specified in the plans submitted December 1, 1988.

The Division appreciates Hecla's cooperation in working with us to develop a sound reclamation proposal. Please feel free to contact us at any time should you have additional permitting questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Lowell P. Braxton
Administrator
Mineral Resource Development
and Reclamation Program

DWH/jb
Attachments
cc: Brian Johnson, Hecla Mining Co.
Minerals Team
MN3/41-42



SCOTT M. MATHESON
Governor

GORDON E. HARMSTON
Executive Director,
NATURAL RESOURCES

CLEON B. FEIGHT
Director

STATE OF UTAH
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
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October 22, 1980

Mr. Herbert M. Campbell, II
Vice-President
Ranchers Exploration and
Development Corporation
P. O. Box 6217
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87197

RE: Commitment to Tentative
Approval Stipulations
ACT/021/004
Iron County, Utah

Dear Mr. Campbell:

The Division has reviewed the information submitted by Ranchers Exploration in reference to the stipulations attached to the letter of Conditional Tentative Approval issued August 22, 1980.

In response to your submittal, the following information is still requested before final approval can be issued.

- 1) In reference to stipulation #6. The Division recommends the following list as a guide for revegetation purposes:

<u>Species</u>	<u>lbs/ac</u>
Great Basin wildrye (<u>Elymus cinereus</u>)	3
Indian ricegrass (<u>Oryzopsis hymenoides</u>)	2
Western wheatgrass (<u>Agropyron smithii</u>)	3
Slender wheatgrass (<u>Agropyron trachycaulum</u>)	
or pubescent (<u>A. trichophorum</u>)	2
Yellow sweetclover (<u>Melilotus officinalus</u>)	
or Utah sweetvetch (<u>Hedysarum boreale</u>)	3
Lewis flax (<u>Linum lewisii</u>)	
or Arrowleaf balsamroot (<u>Balsamorhiza sagittata</u>)	1
Palmer penstemon (<u>Penstemon palmeri</u>)	1/2
Fourwing saltbush (<u>Atriplex canescens</u>)	
or gardner (<u>A. gardneri</u>)	1
Ephedra (<u>Ephedra spp.</u>)	1
Winterfat (<u>Ceratoides lanata</u>)	1
	<u>17 1/2</u> TOTAL

Mr. Herbert M. Campbell, II
ACT/021/004
October 22, 1980
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Shrubs for planting in depression areas where snow would tend to accumulate:

Antelope bitterbrush (Pursia tridentata)
Utah serviceberry (Amelanchier alnifolia)

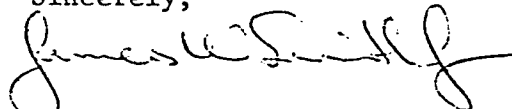
*These are only recommendations, but at least 16 lbs of seed/ac must be used and more than five species. The grass:forb:shrub ratio should be kept at approximately 2:1:1. The use of containerized seedlings is encouraged for special and/or difficult areas.

- 2) In reference to stipulation #4. Perhaps this stipulation was misconstrued in its context. The Division requests final reclamation plans for the tailings disposal site in reference to the protection and prevention of possible contamination of the natural hydrologic regime by future exposure of the tailings materials due to potential postmining erosion. Will the original drainage configurations be restored within the area, and if so, will natural drainage patterns channel the surface flow across the tailings disposal site, or will this area be recontoured to divert runoff around this area?
- 3) In reference to stipulation #8. The Division cannot accept Rancher's commitment to monitor the postmining recovery of the regionally affected aquifer or to provide adequate renumeration to adversely affected parties for a period of only one year. As the stipulation states under 8.(a), Ranchers should provide a commitment to monitor postmining aquifer recovery replacement and/or renumeration to adversely affected parties until such time that sufficient data is documented to substantiate aquifer reestablishment to the normal predicted level. This does not limit the commitment to a one year period or less, whichever is sooner (Title 40-8-12[1][a][b][c] of the Utah Mined Land Reclamation Act).
- 4) In reference to stipulation #9. To date, the Division has not received notification from Dee Hansen, State Engineer (Utah State Division of Water Rights, Dam Safety), that final approval of design specifications for the tailings disposal area have been issued to Ranchers.

Upon receipt and review of this requested information, final approval may be issued to Ranchers Exploration and Development Corporation for their Escalante silver mining operations.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call myself or Wayne Hedberg.

Sincerely,



JAMES W. SMITH, JR.
COORDINATOR OF MINED
LAND DEVELOPMENT

File ACT/021/001
Copy to Wayne
JWS



RANCHERS EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Box 6217 / 1776 Montano Road, N.W. / Albuquerque, New Mexico 87197
Telephone (505) 344-3542 / TWX 910 989 1688 RANC EXPLO ABQ

October 27, 1980

RECEIVED

OCT 31 1980

James W. Smith, Jr.
Coordinator of Mined Land Development
Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
Utah Department of Natural Resources
1588 West North Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116

DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS & MINING

RE: Commitment to tentative approval stipulations for the Escalante Silver Mine

Dear Jim:

Pursuant to the phone conversation between you, Wayne Hedberg, Mark Welch and I on Friday, October 24th, and pursuant to your letter of October 22, 1980, please be advised that Ranchers firmly commits to perform the following actions with regard to the mining and reclamation of the Escalante Silver Mine in Iron County, Utah:

1. Ranchers shall use at least sixteen pounds of seed per acre at a ratio of grass, forb, shrub of two:one:one. The recommendations as to the species and pounds per acre contained in your letter of October 22, 1980 will be followed, unless unusual circumstances, such as the unavailability of a particular seed variety, make substitutions necessary.

2. During mining operations, run ~~off~~ will be diverted around the tailings area. There will be no runoff for the facility is designed to handle maximum probable floods in the area. For the final reclamation of the tailings disposal site, the original drainage configurations of the area will be recontoured but run ~~off~~ will be diverted around the tailings pond area so that the surface flow is not channeled across the tailings disposal site. The dam will be revegetated in accordance with 1 above, and a binder, such as Celtite Polybind, will also be applied.

3. Ranchers will continue its water monitoring program for farmers and residents of the Escalante Valley for a period of at least two years after cessation of its pumping activities. The scope of such monitoring shall be comprehensive, but Ranchers may reduce its monitoring points in a reasonable amount from the total number of monitoring points presently involved in the program. Ranchers has firmly committed to the Escalante Valley Water Users Association, to the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining, and to individual farmers, particularly those from whom easements were required on the south canal, to perform the commitments set forth in its Notice of Intention to the Division, beginning on page 11 and concluding on page 15 of Volume One. Such a plan has been agreed to by the Water Users Association,

James W. Smith
October 27, 1980
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through its officers and its implementation has already begun. The referenced commitments have also been incorporated into rights-of-way granted by farmers and ranchers for the south canal route.

4. Final approval of the State Engineer regarding design specifications for the tailings disposal area is expected soon, and notice of such approval will be transmitted immediately to the Division by Ranchers or the State Engineer. Final construction drawings have on this date been mailed to the State Engineer.

If you have further questions, please call me at once, as we look forward to receiving the final approval document from the Division. I thank you and Wayne for your help.

Very truly yours,

RANCHERS EXPLORATION AND
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION



James M. Rosel
Assistant Vice President
and Assistant Secretary

JMR/nlp
cc: Mark Welch